

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending in the application, with claims 4-8, 17-20, and 29-34 being withdrawn from consideration.

The undersigned would like to thank Examiners Mills and Stodola for the courtesy of a telephone interview on October 24, 2005. In the interview, proposed amendments to independent claims 1, 14, 15, and 27 relating to the location of the slit in the ball portion of the first limb member and the attachment of the tab to the socket surface of the second limb member were discussed. It is believed that the proposed amendments overcome the rejections of record. The objections to the drawings and proposed corrections were also discussed.

The Amendments to the Specification

The second full paragraph at page 9 has been amended at line 18 to clarify that the dimples shown in Fig. 6B are not drawn to scale. A comparison of Figs. 6A and 6B shows that the dimples in Fig. 6B have been exaggerated relative to those in Fig. 6A.

The Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1, 14, 15, and 27 have been amended to specify that the slit is positioned in a ball portion at the joining end of a first limb member and that the tab is attached to the interior surface of a socket portion at the joining end of a second limb member. These amendments are supported at page 5, lines 6-11 and page 9, line 12 of the specification as filed and Figures 5A, 6A, 7, and 8. To clarify the relationship between the ball and the socket portions, claims 1, 14, 15, and 27 have been further amended to specify that the ball portion of the first limb member is at least partially inserted into the socket portion of the second limb member, the socket portion being sized and shaped to fit the ball portion inserted therein. This amendment is supported by Figures 1B, 5A, 5B, 6A, 6B and 7. In particular, the wrist joint 23 of Figure 1B and Figures 5B and 6B show an embodiment where the ball portion is only partially inserted into the socket, so

that the socket does not enclose the whole of the ball portion. Figures 5A and 6A show the socket portion being sized and shaped to fit the ball portion. This amendment is also supported by the plain meaning of the term "socket". The plain meaning of "socket" is an opening or a cavity into which an inserted part is designed to fit (The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition. 2000).

Claims 11 and 24 have been amended to correct a typographical error. In particular, at line 2, "entending" has been replaced with "extending".

It is believed that no new matter has been added by any amendment.

The Rejections

The 35 U.S.C. 102 Rejections

Rice

Claims 1-3, 9-14, and 22-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rice (U.S. 2,108,927). The Office Action states:

Regarding claim1, Rice discloses a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin comprising a slit (12A) positioned on the joining end of a first limb member (12), a tab (19) attached to the joining end of a second limb member (13), adapted to be received by the slit and pivotally attached to said first limb member, and a friction producing assembly fixture (20) recessed within the first limb member and in contact with said tab.

Claims 1 and 14 have been amended to specify that the slit is positioned in the ball portion at the joining end of the first limb member and that the tab is attached to the interior surface of the socket at the joining end of the second limb member. Rice's upper leg (12) does not have a ball portion at its joining end, therefore Rice fails to teach a slit positioned in a ball portion at the joining end of a limb member. Rice's lower leg (13) does not have a socket portion at its joining end; therefore Rice fails to teach a tab attached to the socket surface of the

joining end of a limb member. In view of all the foregoing, Rice fails to teach all the limitations of claims 1 and 14. Therefore, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1 and 14. In addition, since claims 2-3 and 9-13 depend from and incorporate all the limitations of claim 1, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2-3 and 9-13.

Claims 22-26 depend from and incorporate all the limitations of claim 15. Claim 15 includes the limitation that the tab has one or more surface depressions and has also been amended to specify that the slit is positioned in the ball portion at the joining end of the first limb member and that the tab is attached to the interior surface of the socket at the joining end of the second limb member. Since Rice fails to teach all the limitations of claim 15, from which claims 22-26 depend, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 22-26.

The 35 U.S.C. 103 Rejections

Rice in view of Harris

Claims 15, 16, 21, and 27-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rice (US 2,108,927) in view of Harris (US 3,383,962).

Harris relates to a ratchet-wrench construction. At column 2, lines 29-35, Harris discloses a detent engagement between a handle (17) and a body (10) having a tongue (18). The detent engagement is accomplished with a spring-detent ball captured within a bore in the handle and constantly riding a series of angularly spaced teeth on the outer face of the tongue (18).

Claims 15 and 27 have been amended to specify that the slit is positioned in the ball portion at the joining end of the first limb member and that the tab is attached to the interior surface of the socket at the joining end of the second limb member. The Rice and Harris references, both singly and in combination, fail to

teach this claim limitation. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 15 and 27. Since claims 16 and 21 depend from and incorporate all the limitations of claim 15 and claim 28 depends from and incorporates all the limitations of claim 27, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 16, 21 and 28.

The Objections

The Objections to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to because of alleged improper crosshatching in figures 2B, 4A, 4B, 5A, 6A, and 7 and alleged lack of clarity regarding labels 60, 74, 80, 50 and 105. The objections are believed obviated by the submission of amended replacement drawing sheets for Figs. 2A-2C, Figs. 3A-3C, Fig. 4A, Fig. 4B, Fig. 5A, Fig. 6A, Fig. 7, and Fig. 8. The replacement drawing sheets are provided in the appendix to this response.

Conclusion

All claims being in condition for allowance, passage to issuance is respectfully requested.

It is believed that a fee of \$60 for a one-month extension of time is due with this submission. A check for \$60 is enclosed. If this amount is incorrect, please credit any overpayment or charge any deficiency, including any fees for extension of time, to deposit account 07-1969.

Respectfully submitted,



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